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## Taking Too Long To Decide?

It may be that by the time this appears in print President Johnson will have announced what the series of conferences on the Viet war have helped him to decide. We hope so, for the publicity given to these almost daily sessions with Mr. Johnson's top advisers is more reassuring to our enemies than to the American people.

The picture which emerges is one of a commander-in-chief beset with uncertainty as he weighs several alternatives and presides over a restrained debate between the military, State Department, and CIA heads who cannot agree among themselves.

To top this off, the White House felt it necessary over the weekend to deny "published suggestions" that the conferences were mere cover-ups for decisions already made to step up the war effort. We think it would have

been better if the President had ignored "these published suggestions" — not denounced them through his press secretary as "irresponsible, reckless and grossly untrue."

Does he seek to appease his liberal critics by showing himself as vacillating? But he has not been that way in facing up to the Viet war, and the nation doesn't want him to be that way now. He cast the die when he declared that the United States would never be forced out of Southeast Asia.

What alternative is there to building up our forces in South Viet Nam and fighting to win this war—so long as our enemies are on the offensive and threatening to win?

We think that will be, if it is not already, President Johnson's decision. And we hope it will be announced soon, with all the facts and reasons told.

DES MOINES, IOWA  
REGISTER

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AUG 8 1965

## More Opposition To War?

To the Editor:

While there have always been people opposed to our getting into war, do you not think there is more opposition now to the war in Southeast Asia, a second Korea, as it were?

I have read of the "emergency rally" on Viet Nam sponsored by SANE, where Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon declared that the consensus on Viet Nam, "is not a consensus of our people, nor even of the community of nations; it is a consensus among the State Department, CIA and White House staff." He called it "government by concealment."

Prof. [Hans] Morganthau said it is an unjust war and one that cannot be won and if it continues it will have the exact opposite effects to those which our government intends to have.

Mary T. Dongan, 711 N. Moore, Mason City, Ia.